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**Environment Department lifts "BOIL WATER ORDER" for
La Jara Water Users Association**

(Santa Fe, NM) – The New Mexico Environment Department's (NMED) Drinking Water Bureau has advised the La Jara Water Users Association to lift a "boil water order" for its water system.

The La Jara Water Users Association, located about five miles north of Cuba in Sandoval County, was put on a "boil water order" on June 7, 2004 due to turbidity that exceeded the maximum limit. Seasonal runoff increased the turbidity levels in the La Jara water system area.

Turbidity has no known health effects. However, turbidity can interfere with disinfection and provide a medium for microbial growth. Turbidity may indicate the presence of disease-causing organisms. These organisms include bacteria, viruses, and parasites, which can cause symptoms such as nausea, cramps, diarrhea, and associated headaches. For these reasons, NMED issued an order for La Jara water system customers to boil water before drinking, cooking, and dishwashing.

The NMED Drinking Water Bureau has considered the following in the decision to rescind the boil water order:

- turbidity levels have been less than 1 NTU since June 13, 2004
- residual chlorine has been maintained at a level of at least 0.6 mg/L
- total coliform bacteria were absent in samples collected on June 9, 2004
- the system has a storage capacity of about 4 days
- new internal reporting policies were implemented within La Jara water system
- La Jara water system applied for funding for system modifications to improve water quality

For more information contact Angela Faye Cross, NMED at (505) 841-9474 or Jon Goldstein, Communications Director, NMED at (505) 827-0314.

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